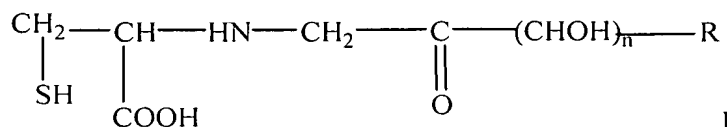


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A compound of the formula I:



in which R is hydrogen when $n=1-4$, or methyl when $n=0-3$.

2. (Original) A method of preparing a compound according to claim 1, comprising the reaction of cysteine with a sugar in either aqueous solution or in a mixture of water and water-miscible solvents.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which the reaction is accelerated by heating, ~~preferably to between 60° and 110°C.~~
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which the reaction is carried out in the presence of a buffer having a pH of from 1-9, ~~preferably of from 2-6.~~
5. (Original) A method of conferring a meaty flavour or aroma on a foodstuff, comprising the addition to the foodstuff before heating of a compound according to claim 1.
6. (Original) Use of a compound according to claim 1 to confer on a foodstuff a meaty flavour or aroma.
7. (New): A method according to claim 3, in which the reaction is accelerated by heating to a temperature between 60° and 100°C.

8. (New): A method according to claim 4, in which the buffer has a pH of from 2-6.
9. (New): A method according to claim 5, wherein the compound is added in a concentration ranging from 5 - 5000ppm by weight of foodstuff in consumable form.
10. (New): A method according to claim 5, wherein the compound is added in a concentration ranging from 200 - 2000ppm by weight of foodstuff in consumable form.